

# JUNIOR COUNCIL of THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM of ART

## ART CART PROJECT

The first week in November the Junior Council ~~will~~<sup>ed</sup> launch its "Art Cart" project in the University Hospitals and at St. Luke's Hospital. The purpose of this project is to bring an element of outside interest to the patient; to acquaint the patient with the paintings in The Cleveland Museum of Art; and the function of the cultural development of the University Circle.

We hope to help dispel the monotony of the blank walls the patient is so often subject to, and to offer visitors, staff and especially the patients, something interesting and challenging to look at and learn about, which will give pleasure, and relieve the monotony of hospital tenure.

The Junior Council volunteers have been trained to present a wide choice of pictures, reproductions from The Cleveland Museum of Art and other museums' collections from this country and Europe for the patients' choice for a week. The history of the artist and the known facts about the painting will be available to the patients in the form of a card which they may keep. Information as to the source of the reproduction and price (in case the patient wants one for home) will be in the volunteer's handbook on the cart.

Like all good ideas, art for hospitals is a simple one. It is to humanize the hospital -- to help minimize the institutional atmosphere, and to offer visitors, staff and especially patients something beautiful or interesting to contemplate, something which, through the pleasure it gives, offers respite from illness and the depressing trappings of illness.

Each Wednesday the Free Picture Lending Service of the "Art Cart" project will go to a designated area in each hospital and call at each room where the patient is well enough to receive it and explain to the patient that it is a free picture lending service and that they may select from the cart any picture they like, to be hung in their room for a week.

One of the most significant changes in hospitals in recent years is our recognition of the effect which the patients' environment has upon his recovery. Beautiful paintings on the walls contribute an element of compassion to the atmosphere and give a feeling of assurance.

One day a week at both University Hospitals and St. Luke's Hospital, two members of the Junior Council will take the "art cart" to some fifty (50) rooms in each hospital. They will be able to answer the patient's questions concerning the painting, the artist, and The Cleveland Museum of Art, and help the patient select his picture which will be in the room for a week.

Junior Council members have selected the reproductions with great care and much research. The work shop committee has matted and framed each one and the art history committee has written commentaries on each picture and painter, which will be distributed to patients as a courtesy of The Cleveland Museum of Art-Junior Council Project, in the form of an attractive card explaining the project and giving the art history.

This type of art cart project has been accepted in many hospitals throughout the country and has proved its value in each instance. We have endeavored to profit by the experience of other hospital art cart projects and hope to prove invaluable to the two hospitals where we have chosen to establish our project and be a valuable adjunct to The Cleveland Museum of Art in bringing it to the public.

Mrs. Raymond F. Evans  
Chairman, Art Cart Project